

action in response, have placed the subject on the committee agenda. Consequently, we hope that you and your department will cooperate fully in assisting Members as they assess the full range of issues associated with defense organization.

Sincerely,

LES ASPIN,  
*Chairman.*

BILL NICHOLS,  
*Chairman, Investigations  
Subcommittee.*

Four bills were introduced in the 99th Congress addressing the issues: H.R. 4234, Armed Forces Combatant Reorganization Act; H.R. 4235, Joint Officer Capability Act; H.R. 4236, Military Department Reorganization Act; and H.R. 4237, a bill relating to improved oversight of defense agencies. These bills, together with H.R. 4068, a bill that would eliminate the Defense Logistics Agency and Defense Contract Audit Agency, became the framework for discussion, deliberation, and eventual markup of the defense organization legislation.

On March 11, 1986, the language in the bills was combined into one measure, H.R. 4370.

Impetus was given to the winter and spring efforts of the Committee on Armed Services by companion Senate efforts and the work of the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management headed by Honorable David Packard. On February 28, 1986, the Packard Commission published "An Interim Report to the President" that included a number of recommendations for far-reaching organizational reform. Those proposals, endorsed en toto by the President, served as a strong encouragement to Members of both bodies engaged in the reorganization effort. In addition, on May 7, 1986, the Senate passed its own comprehensive Department of Defense Reorganization Act (S. 2295).

These actions reflect the culmination of five years of effort in the House of Representatives and three years of effort in the Senate. The flowering of this legislation has been characterized by the utmost cooperation among Members of both bodies. Each Armed Services Committee has, to its credit, led the way in exploring facets of the reorganization issue and shaping far-reaching, constructive changes. The effort has also been characterized by the complete absence of partisanship with which matters that affect the very survival of the nation should be approached.

#### THE NEED FOR CHANGE

The Department of Defense was established in the aftermath of World War II to maintain, and employ when necessary, the Armed Forces of the United States under the direction of the President as commander in chief and the Secretary of Defense, and in response to the legislative mandates of the Congress. Modifications of the original 1947 National Security Act in 1949, 1953, and 1958 resulted in an organizational structure of the Department of Defense consisting of four basic elements: the Secretary of Defense and his Office of the Secretary; the military departments containing the four military services; the Joint Chiefs of Staff together with the